

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### Lilli Taylor, Seaside

**Sports:** Soccer (all-league), basketball (all-league), track

**Favorite sports moment:** My favorite sports moment has to be every home game at the old Seaside High School, when the girls basketball team would cheer the fight song before going out on the court. It really meant a lot because singing the song as a team brought the feeling of unity and got us in game mode.

**Where you see yourself in five years:** I hope to be graduated from college, exploring the field of environmental science and going on fun adventures.

**Favorite road trips:** My favorite road trip was to High Life (Adventures) with my basketball team after my junior season. Hands down that was one of the best adventures ever.

**Most influential coach or teacher:**

It's a tough decision, but I would have to say it was my AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) coach, Frank Luzaich. From fifth to eighth grade he was my first Portland traveling coach, and he is the one that helped me truly fall in love with the game of basketball. He helped me build my confidence as a player and helped elevate my game and the way I see the court.

**Advice for young teammates:** Even if there's a practice you just don't want to be at, or feel like you can skip that day, don't. Playing high school sports doesn't last forever.

There is a clock on how many times you get to lace up your cleats or step on the court. Never take it for granted or think there is always next season, because if COVID has taught us one thing, it's that nothing is guaranteed.



Katherine Lacaze

Eager participants get prepped during the countdown to the start of the Egg Hunt for 9- to 10-year-olds at the annual Community Egg Hunt hosted by Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

## Egg hunt: Activities featured Easter Bunny, treasure dive

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2020, the district did a drive-through-only event in lieu of any gathering, manager of marketing and special events Melissa Ousley said.

As the event resumes its normal operation, she added, it was pleasant to feel the joy and sense of community among the crowd, as well as the district staff and volunteers from Seaside High School and Seaside Middle School who are pivotal to pulling it off.

"There was some nice energy," she said. "Everybody was super excited."

### The 'bunny bouncer'

Browning originally was solicited as the Easter Bunny chaperone about five years ago, in part because of her ability to project her voice and capture the crowd's attention.

"All of the kids can hear my countdown," she said.

Ousley added, "She's one of those really outgoing people that's able to get everybody involved."

However, Browning plays the part gladly. "My favorite would have to be all of the kids getting to see the Easter Bunny, and how they absolutely love it."

She referenced one little toddler, maybe 2 years old, who kept running up to the bunny's legs and hugging him throughout the egg hunt.

"Most of the kids are excited and happy," she said.

In addition to getting photos with the Easter bunny at a photo booth, children received tokens to ride the carousel in Seaside's downtown Carousel Mall. Some of the plastic eggs also contained golden tickets to claim plush bunnies donated



Sunset Empire Park Recreation District's Amanda Browning and former director Mary Blake led games during the district's annual Treasure Dive.

by Rascal's and Easter baskets from Bruce's Candy Kitchen.

After the egg hunt, the district hosted its annual Aquatic Treasure Dive, which Browning also has led for about 13 years. She assumed the helm from former general manager Mary Blake.

"She kind of left me the legacy of playing," Browning said.

This year, about 75 children ages 7 to 17 participated in the treasure dive. During the first part of the program, they played a variety of fun and engaging games. Browning keeps the whole thing flexible, tailoring activities to the general mood and interest of the kids who participate from year to year. Some enjoy more competitive games, while others tend toward collaborative group activities.

"I very much do a go-with-the-flow thing," she

said.

After the games, they moved into the treasure dive, with students looking for keys among a collection of coins on the bottom of the pool. One special key opened the treasure box with the grand prize. The other keys were good for a candy bar.

This year, Blake came back to join Browning in leading the dive, which was a special treat for all involved.

"I love playing with Mary," Browning said. "You never grow old around that woman."

Both the treasure dive and egg hunt draw families from throughout Clatsop County and beyond. Some are out-of-state visitors who come to town to celebrate Easter with their families.

"They always come and say 'hi' to me, and they get excited to do it," Browning said.

## SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Track: Gulls host three-way meet

Seaside hosted its one and only home track meet of the season last Thursday as the Gulls brought in Tillamook and Valley Catholic for a three-way dual meet.

The only win for the Lady Gulls came from senior Elise Seppa, who set a personal best of 12 minutes, 12.16 seconds for first place in the 3,000 meters. Teammate Lilli Taylor was second in the 400 (1:09.98).

On the boys side, Seaside's Brady Jackson swept the sprints, winning the 100 (11.72) and 200 meters (24.76).

Valley Catholic runners won the 400, 800 and 1,500, while Seaside sophomore James Roehr took first in the 3,000 in 10:38.84.

Elsewhere, Seaside senior Ryan Smith had a personal best 42-foot, 4-inch toss to win the shot put, and he also had the winning mark in the discus (107-9).

Seaside's Cole Biamont was a double winner in the pole vault (10-0) and long jump (18-0 ½).

### Baseball: Seaside falls in the Clash, 5-1

Seaside had six hits to Astoria's five, but the Fishermen took advantage of four errors on the Gulls to post a 5-1 win last Thursday afternoon in Clatsop Clash baseball action

at CMH Field.

Niko Boudreau went the distance on the mound for Astoria, striking out eight with no walks. Jake White had three of Seaside's six hits.

Astoria scored three runs in the bottom of the first on a walk, a single and an error.

Seaside pitcher Tanner Kraushaar kept the Fishermen scoreless in the second, third and fourth innings, before the Fishermen tacked on two in the fifth on run-scoring hits by Boudreau and Sven Johnson.

### Softball: Bruney bash helps win the Clash, 14-3

In the first Clatsop Clash softball game of the season, Astoria pounded out seven extra base hits to highlight a five-inning, 14-3 win over Seaside, last Thursday at Broadway Field.

The Lady Fishermen led 6-2 after two innings, adding eight runs over the fourth and fifth innings.

Astoria's freshmen led the way, as Shelby Bruney was 2-for-3 (double, home run), scored three runs and drove in three. Pitcher Maddie Wilkin scattered four hits, with 10 strikeouts and one walk. Tenley Matteucci drove in four runs with two doubles.

Seaside's Tara Lair was 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

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